

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2874
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2003
BILATERAL AGREEMENT OF PRIVATE AIRLINES
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a proposal to allow private airlines to sign air services pacts with foreign countries under the Bilateral Air Traffic Rights Agreements;
- (b) if so, the details of this policy;
- (c) whether any rights already conferred in Indian Airlines will be withdrawn in view of the new agreements;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Indian Airlines has sought more foreign routes; and
- (f) if so, the details of such requests and their relevance in the new scheme of things?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

- (a) and (b): Bilateral Air Services Agreement are signed between the Governments. However, it has been decided that private airlines of India will be allowed to operate to the SAARC countries subject to the provisions of the Air Services Agreements.
- (c) and (d): No, Sir. Operations of private airlines to SAARC Countries will be against the unutilised entitlements of the Indian side.
- (e) and (f): Under the existing policy, Air India has the first right of refusal so far as operations on new international routes are concerned. Requests of Indian Airlines to operate more international services are considered on a case to case basis under the existing policy and the ongoing effort to achieve greater synergy in the operations of two national carriers.